

As early as July 10th I have seen a nest in course of construction, while the preceding nest was observed on the 28th November; but, as already stated, August is the general breeding-month. The young are said to suffer a good deal from the attacks of the Carancho (*Polyborus tharus*), probably from the fact that *C. coscoroba* is more frequently seen on land than *C. nigricollis*, and accordingly the young flappers are liable to be pounced upon before they can regain the water.

The eggs are smooth, but neither so glossy nor so cream-coloured as those of *C. nigricollis*; besides which they are decidedly smaller, the few specimens in my collection averaging $3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$, and of a proportionately rounder shape.

[To be continued.]

II.—*Field-Notes on the Birds of St. Vincent, West Indies.*

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As the physical geography of some of the West-Indian Islands has been considerably modified since the advent of Europeans, chiefly by the clearing away of the virgin forests in order to plant sugar-canes, and as in some instances these changes have led to the extinction of several forest-loving species, I will preface my notes on the birds of St. Vincent by a short description of its physical geography.

St. Vincent, like its neighbour St. Lucia, is of volcanic origin; a lofty ridge or backbone, commencing with the Soufrière on the north, runs due south across the whole island. This ridge has many sharp and pointed peaks, all, however, covered to their very summits with virgin forests. The Soufrière is said to be 3000 feet high; but it is probably not the highest point of this ridge. Numerous spurs descend on either side from this central chain; and on the western or leeward side they are very steep and precipitous in some places; so that the "high woods" or virgin forests here approach the sea-coast much nearer than they do on the eastern or windward side, where,

owing to the less precipitous nature of the ground, they have been cleared back to about three or four miles from the coast. The island, which is about twenty-five miles long by ten broad, is watered by numerous clear rivers, and, owing to the absence of swamps, is remarkably healthy.

I resided in St. Vincent during the months of February, March, April, July, August, September, October, and November. During my stay I collected eighty-five skins, which are now in the Cambridge Museum. Professor Newton and Mr. Salvin have kindly supplied me with the names of the species contained in the collection*.

1. *TURDUS NIGRIROSTRIS*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 187.

The commonest of the three species of this family that I obtained. Found chiefly in the high woods, but descends to the clearings when the fig-trees bear fruit.

2. *CINCLOCERTHIA RUFICAUDA* (Gould); Lawr. *l. c.* p. 187†.

Not uncommon in the high woods. I never saw one on cleared land.

3. *MARGAROPS MONTANUS* (Vieill.); Lawr. *l. c.* p. 187.

Does not show itself so much as the preceding species, but may be common. Never met with it out of the high woods.

4. *MYIADESTES SIBILANS*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 188.

Local name "Souffrière-bird."

I met with this interesting bird on the Souffrière, and in every part of the high woods that I explored. Its song, which causes even those who care little for bird-music to pause and listen, appears to be similar to that of a closely allied species so well described by Mr. Gosse in his account of the birds of Jamaica. During the month of August I

* [We have added to the names given by Mr. Lister references to Mr. Lawrence's paper on the birds of St. Vincent, lately published in the 'Proceedings of the United-States National Museum,' 1878, p. 185, and a few other notes where necessary. It will be observed that Mr. Lister has added three species to the list of St.-Vincent birds—namely *Cypseloides niger*, *Fulica americana*, and *Tringoides macularius*.—EDD.]

† [See below, p. 72.—EDD.]

noticed that the birds did not sing their full song, but after giving a few notes would stop and give utterance to a harsh note which reminded me of the discordant one which occurs in the song of the Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).

5. *CATHAROPEZA BISHOPI**.

Leucopeza bishopi, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 189.

This little bird is entirely confined to the high woods. In the stomach of one I found a small newt. This species may often be observed searching about amongst the stones and decayed logs that strew the course of the mountain-streams. The iris is hazel.

6. *THRYOTHORUS MUSICUS*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 189.

I met with this lively little bird in every part of the island that I visited. Its song is sweet; and some of its notes resemble the rich notes of the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). It is a bold, familiar bird, and frequently builds its nest in the verandas of the houses.

7. *CERTHIOLA ATRATA*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 190.

Local name "Sugar-bird."

Found all over the island. These birds often fall into the sugar-coppers. Nest domed, with entrance at side.

8. *VIREOSYLVA CALIDRIS*, var. *DOMINICANA*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 189.

Not found in the high woods, but elsewhere pretty common.

9. *PROGNE DOMINICENSIS* (Gm.); Lawr. *l. c.* p. 190.

This bird I have observed all along the Windward coast. It is said to breed in the cliffs. I once saw one of these birds hawking over a pasture after the manner of our Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Linn.).

10. *LOXIGILLA NOCTIS* (Linn.); Lawr. *l. c.* p. 191.

Local name, "Sparrow."

Found all over the island. Frequents the arrowroot-drying-

* This bird cannot be referred to the same genus as *Leucopeza semperi*, of St. Lucia, but belongs to a distinct form of *Mniotiltidæ*, which Selater proposes to call *Catharopeza*. See below, p. 73.

houses in company with *Phonipara bicolor* for the purpose of feeding on the arrowroot.

11. *PHONIPARA BICOLOR* (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 191.

Local name, "Grass-bird."

Found everywhere, except in the high woods.

12. *TYRANNUS ROSTRATUS*, Sclater ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 191.

Local name, "Loggerhead Piperee."

Not found in the high woods, but elsewhere pretty common. In the stomach of one I found the seed of a palm ; their food, however, usually consists of insects.

13. *MYIARCHUS OBERI*, Lawr. *l. c.* p. 191.

Local name, Piperee."

The distribution of this bird is similar to that of *Tyrannus rostratus* ; but it is perhaps not met with in such great numbers.

14. *ELAINEA MARTINICA* (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 191.

Local name, "Corn-bird."

Distribution similar to that of the other species of this family. Though this bird is termed "The Corn-bird," I never could detect it feeding on grain.

15. *COCCYZUS MINOR* (Gm.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 193.

Local name, "Cuckoo Manioc."

I have often heard the note of this bird when entering the high woods (and on one occasion shot one to make sure that it was the same species found in the cleared districts), but have never seen or heard it in the interior. Its food consists largely of the different kinds of *Mantis*.

16. *CROTOPHAGA ANI*, Linn. ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 193.

Local names, "Chapman's bird," or "Old Witch."

Found throughout the cleared lands, chiefly haunting pastures, never in the high woods. Said to have been introduced by a Mr. Chapman some thirty years ago.

17. *CYPSELOIDES NIGER* (Gm.).

Local name, "Day-bat."

May be seen flying over the pastures in great numbers after rain.

18. CHÆTURA DOMINICANA, Lawr. ; Ann. N.Y. Ac. Sc. i. p. 255.

This is perhaps the commonest of two species of Swifts, and is found all over the island.

19. EULAMPIS JUGULARIS (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 192.

Local name, " Doctor bird."

Confined chiefly to the high woods, though when certain trees are in flower, a few may be found on cleared land ; it never, however, frequents the sea-cliffs.

20. EULAMPIS HOLOSERICEUS (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 192.

Local name, " Doctor bird."

Found everywhere in the island, except in the high woods, but not in great numbers. I once observed one of these birds hunting for insects after the manner of the Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*, Linn.).

21. ORTHORHYNCHUS ORNATUS, Gould; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 192.

Local name, " Doctor bird."

Found throughout the island. By far the commonest of the family. Though unable to find the nest of the two preceding species, I could always procure the beautiful little structure formed by this tiny bird. I found nests of this species in March, April, and September.

22. CHRYSOTIS GUILDINGI (Vig.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 193.

An inhabitant of the high woods. It appears to breed during the months of April and May, though no one has yet been able to procure the young. The individuals that are occasionally sent to Europe are birds that have been winged. During the latter part of August and the beginning of September I shot several examples that were moulting.

23. COLUMBA CORENSIS (Gm.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 196.

Local name, " Ramier."

This bird is almost entirely confined to the high woods, though in the month of September when certain berries are ripe they may be found in the clearings adjoining the woods.

They are strictly arboreal, never descending to the ground.

24. GEOTRYGON MONTANA (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 196.

Local name "Padre."

This species is confined to the high woods. It feeds on the seeds &c. which fall from the trees. It is terrestrial in its habits, only perching occasionally on low shrubs, never on the lofty ones. It frequently places its nest in a tree fern.

25. ZENAIDA MARTINICANA, Bp. ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 196.

Local name, "Bequia Dove."

A few of these birds appear to come over from the islands of Bequia, Balliceaux, &c. in the month of March, but remain a very short time. They feed, when in St. Vincent, on the pigeon-peas.

26. CHAMÆPELIA PASSERINA (Linn.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 196.

Local name, "Ground-Dove."

Found chiefly near the sea-coast, never in the high woods. The negro boys catch great numbers in traps.

27. URUBITINGA ANTHRACINA (Nitzsch) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 194*.

Local name, "Black Hawk."

This fine bird is met with chiefly in the high woods, but occasionally pays a visit to some quiet stream in the cultivated districts. Its food appears to be crayfish and fresh-water crabs. I procured two specimens, viz. an adult female and a young male. It may be observed soaring at a great height, sometimes in company with two or three Chicken-Hawks (*Buteo pennsylvannicus*).

28. BUTEO PENNSYLVANNICUS (Wils.) ; Lawr. *l. c.* p. 194.

Local name, "Chicken-Hawk."

This species is found all over the island, and is very common. It often builds its nest in a bread-fruit tree, and is

* [In 1874, the Zoological Society obtained from Dominica a young example of this species, which died in 1878 after putting on its adult plumage. See 'List of Animals in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London' (1879), p. 314. The specimen is now in the Norwich Museum.—P. L. S.]

very bold in defence of its young. Though the name by which this bird is known throughout the island led me to suppose that it was an enemy to chickens, I never observed it molesting the poultry. In the stomachs of all the specimens I examined I found the remains of lizards and snakes. Unlike the Black Hawk, it is very tame and permits a near approach.

29. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, Linn.

Strix flammea, var. *nigrescens*, Lawr. l. c. 194.

Local name, "Gumby bird."

This, the only Owl in the island, is found everywhere, except perhaps in the high woods. It often takes up its abode in the boiling-houses. In the stomach of one that I shot I found the remains of a lizard. Several persons informed me that the bird devoured the berries of the Galba tree; and I was shown a heap of these berries which were supposed to have been partially eaten by an Owl. The negroes have a superstitious fear of this bird.

30. *BUTORIDES VIRESCENS* (Linn.) ; Lawr. l. c. p. 196.

Local name, "Gaulin."

Found near all rivers and streams, but very rarely met with in the high woods.

31. *FULICA AMERICANA*, Gm.*

I think this bird is only an accidental visitor to the island.

An individual of this species was captured alive in an exhausted condition after a severe gale in Brabon Bay by a Mr. Nevison, who kindly sent it to me.

32. *TRINGOIDES MACULARIUS* (Linn.)†.

Local name, "Yellow-legs."

Found chiefly along the sea-shore. A few solitary individuals are occasionally seen near rivers in the high woods.

* [This species is not given by Mr. Lawrence, but is one likely to occur in the West Indies.—EDD.]

† [Also not contained in Mr. Lawrence's list, but a widely distributed species.—EDD.]